Ponchatoula
Hammond

CAR & TRUCK WRECK
INJURY ATTORNEYS
Parker Layrisson • 985-467-9525 • Layrisson.com

The Tangi Times

The Newspaper of Tangipahoa, St. Helena, and Eastern Livingston Parishes

MONDAY MOJO EDITION

VOL. 45, No. 75 *Monday, March 23, 2026* $1.00

Redefining Success

By KASIA PERKOWSKA • Tangi Times Feature Columnist

Traditionally, being successful here in the U.S. meant pursuing "The American Dream." As a child having spent the first decade of my life in Poland, this was a huge topic discussed amongst the adults around me, especially since food was rationed and people were pretty much starving.

I eavesdropped intently as they discussed a place where anything was possible and all your dreams came true if you worked hard. To a child living in such harsh conditions, my imagination went wild as I dreamed of unlimited sweets and an abundance of food.

Toys, clothes, and my own room weren't even on the list of things I wanted. When you're hungry all day from lack of food, the only thing you think about is how many hours will pass before you eat again.

When I stepped foot on U.S. soil for the first time at the age of 10, it was an adjustment to suddenly be surrounded by abundance. For a child who went from nothing to being surrounded by abundance, it was overwhelming. Back then, I was still way too young to understand what success meant, but I knew that since we came to America, we'd be OK.

So what exactly is the American Dream? Many people define it differently, but it all comes down to everyone here having the opportunity to achieve prosperity through hard work, regardless of a person's religious, racial, or economic background.

Despite years of hearing about the "white picket fence, a dog, and 2.5 kids" being the American Dream, today, more and more people are redefining what it means. Today, it is widely believed that personal fulfillment is more important than material success.

Homeownership was a lot easier and affordable for earlier generations, even in traditional single-income households. Starting a family of their own was something a lot of little girls dreamed of from a very young age, but today, more young people are deciding against getting married or having children.

71% of younger people say it's easier today to start a business than it was for us older folk, and thanks to digital technology expanding and improving at alarming rates, more new opportunities present themselves every day. Instead of seeking a career with the traditional 9-5 workday, more people are making money in non-traditional ways, including gig work and remote jobs that can be done over the internet from just about anywhere.

See SUCCESS on Page 9

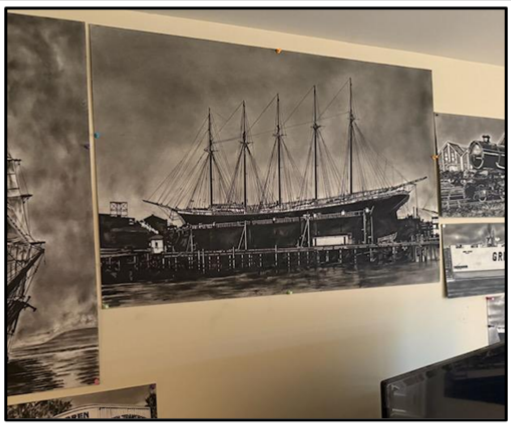
Decades of Detail

By STEFANIE BROOKE
Tangi Times
Community Journalist

Inside his room at Landmark Nursing Home, Gerald Schara lives surrounded by ships that never sink, trains that never slow, and trucks that look ready to rumble straight off the wall. Nearly every available space holds one of his detailed charcoal drawings, each piece a quiet testament to a lifetime spent chasing lines, shadows, and perspective.

At 91 years old, Schara's relationship with art is still going strong.

His love for drawing began early, long before he ever picked up the fine charcoal pencils he prefers today. As he recalls with a smile, "I've been drawing ever since I was young." What started as a childhood habit grew into a steady companion through the decades, following him from Wisconsin to California and through a wide range of life experiences.



His specialty is precision. Semi trucks with gleaming lights. Towering steam locomotives. Massive sailing ships with forests of masts and rigging. Snowcapped Andean peaks rendered with careful shading.

Schara gravitates toward subjects that reward patience and technical accuracy, and he studies photographs closely so he can capture every rivet and rail just right.

"I was blessed with a pretty good perspective," he says, a statement his artwork strongly supports.

Many of his drawings come with stories attached. One of his favorite memories involves a truck driver whose rig he painstakingly recreated from a photograph. After weeks of work and the expense of professional framing, Schara surprised the driver with the finished piece.

The reaction still delights him. "His eyeballs almost popped right out," Schara recalls, clearly pleased at the memory.

Though charcoal can be messy, he has long since mastered the medium, layering fine detail with remarkable control. He favors tools that allow for precision line work, explaining that the more detail he can include, the more real the image becomes.

Looking around his room, it is easy to see what he means. Some pieces are so crisp they could be mistaken for black-and-white photographs at first glance.

Schara's life has taken him many places. He joined the Navy shortly after high school and spent three years aboard an aircraft carrier, later working in shipyards and on the railroad.

See DETAIL, Page 9

Today is National Puppy Day!
Take me home with you
Celebrate by adopting a new furry friend!
The Tangi Times

Need a Notary? BETTER CALL PAULA!
PAULA REED YOUNG
Civil Law Notary Public
call or text
985-634-4825
•Fast •Friendly •Affordable
1445 S. Morrison Blvd
Hammond

What's inside this issue?

Back in My Day

Our Wild, Wild World

SLITHERY THINGS
So misunderstood!

and much more!

One Dollar

1 97644 87009 7

985-467-0096 Subscribe at www.tangitimes.com publisher@tangitimes.com

SOLD
SOUTHEASTERN
REAL ESTATE PARTNERS
You know you have the right team when you see this sign!

- ***Buying/Selling Residential and Commercial Properties***
- ***Rental and Property Management***
- ***Vacant Land***

CALL THE WINNING TEAM

Rene J. McLin®
Assoc. Broker
985-634-7904

Beverly Delatte®
Broker
GRI, ABR®, E-pro
985-969-0474

303 W. Minnesota Park, Suite 5, Hammond
985-345-3090 www.serepartners.com

MEME MOJO

This morning,
my wife texted me,
"Your great!" I replied,
"No – YOU'RE great!"
She's been happy
all day. I should
correct her grammar
more often.

The Tangi Times

Don Chaucer's Pharmacy
Family owned and operated since 1990
Visit our charming gift shop!
• Drive-thru convenience • Fast, friendly service
• We accept most insurances and LA Medicaid
15794 Medical Arts Plaza • Hammond
985-345-7979(RXRX)
donchaucerspharmacy@gmail.com

I am that friend who would take a bullet for you. I'm also probably the reason we are being shot at.

Just Saying

The Tangi Times

A & L STORAGE, LLC
"AFFORDABLE RATES"

AVAILABLE SIZES	PRICES
5 X 5	$20.00
5 X 10	$40.00
10 X 10	$50.00
10 X 20	$80.00

Located
Highway 445 Loranger, LA

Call Now
985-687-9759

PALINDROME *du jour*

Won't lovers revolt now?

A palindrome is a word, phrase, or sentence that reads the same backward as it does forward. If you have a favorite palindrome, send it to publisher@tangitimes.com.

Back in My Day

By
Burl "Two-Toes" Jenkins

I been noticing a strange phenomenon lately, and I believe the scientists ought to look into it. Somewhere along the line, the entire population of the United States decided they needed to report every single detail of their life to the internet like they was the evening news.

Back in my day, if something happened to you, it stayed between you, whoever was standing nearby, and maybe the lady at the beauty shop if it was juicy enough.

Now folks are broadcasting their entire existence like they're being followed by a documentary crew.

I was sitting on my porch the other day scrolling through one of them social media things my niece set up for me, and within five minutes I knew what thirty seven people had for breakfast, who was mad at their cousin, whose dog had anxiety, and which fella from high school apparently "needed prayers but wasn't ready to talk about it."

Well now I'm curious, Brenda. If you weren't ready to talk about it, why'd you bring it up in front of the entire internet like a cliffhanger episode?

Back in my day, if you had a problem, you either handled it quietly or you told exactly three people. Your best friend, your mama, and one nosy neighbor, who was gonna tell everybody anyway.

But at least there was some suspense.

These days, people post pictures of everything. Their food. Their feet at the beach. Their hospital bracelets. Their new haircut. Their old haircut. Their kid losing a tooth. Their kid refusing to lose a tooth.

I saw a woman post a play by play of her trip to the grocery store.

"Just got to the parking lot."

"Heading inside."

"Pray for me, the lines are long."

Ma'am, this ain't the moon landing.

And don't even get me started on these folks announcing every emotion they have like it's breaking news.

"I'm feeling some kind of way today."

Well, congratulations. That narrows it down to all the human emotions.

Back in my day people kept a little mystery about themselves. You didn't know what your neighbors were up to half the time, and that was perfectly fine. If somebody disappeared for a whole weekend and came back sunburned and smiling, you just minded your business.

Now if somebody goes quiet online for six hours, people start sending search parties.

Now I'm not saying the internet is all bad. It's handy for seeing pictures of the grandkids and figuring out what restaurant just opened in town.

But I do believe we've reached the point where folks are sharing so much of their lives, there ain't nothing left to talk about in person.

You used to run into somebody at the store and catch up on what they'd been doing.

Now you run into them and say, "Well I see you had tacos Tuesday, argued with your sister Wednesday, and your dog finally passed that tennis ball he swallowed."

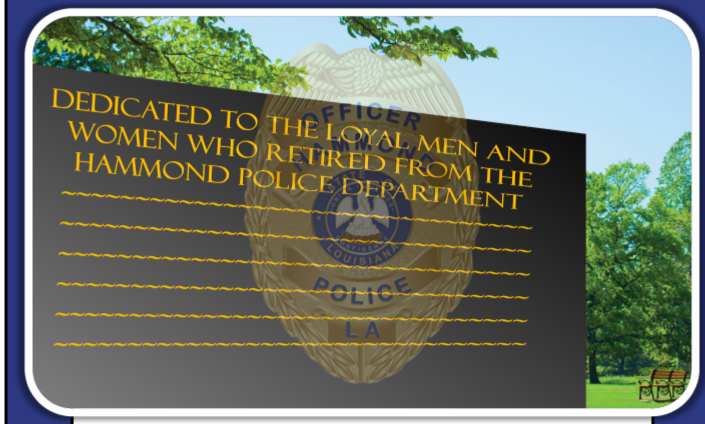
Conversation's over before it even starts.

So take it from old Burl "Two Toes" Jenkins. A little mystery never hurt anybody.

Matter of fact, sometimes the best stories are the ones that never make it onto the internet.

Louisiana Senior Advisors
174 S 6th St. Ponchatoula
NEED AN AGENT? CALL US!
LOCAL IS BETTER!
985-370-9167
Medicare Questions?
Get Answers!
✓ Medicare Advantage Plans
✓ Medicare Prescription Plans
✓ Medicare Supplements
GET ENROLLED TODAY !
Vision, Dental, Hearing
Annuities, Long Term Care
Life and Individual Health
Facebook.com/LouisianaSeniorAdvisors
Office@LouisianaSeniorAdvisors.com
LouisianaSeniorAdvisors.com

HPD to Build Retirement Wall


DEDICATED TO THE LOYAL MEN AND WOMEN WHO RETIRED FROM THE HAMMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICER
HAMMOND
LOUISIANA
POLICE
LA

The Hammond Police Department is in the beginning phase of building a Retirement Wall. This wall will be dedicated to the men and women who faithfully served the Hammond community and retired from the Hammond Police Department. HPD is asking the public to send the names, rank, years of service, retirement date, and any other information that might help to include everyone who should be honored on this historic monument. HPD is also seeking anyone who can provide a picture of the first Hammond Chief of Police, Robert B. Torrence.

If you have information regarding any officers who retired from the Hammond Police Department, please contact Lt. T. Mushinsky at (985)277-5743.

The Tangi Times

BILL HOOD AUTO GROUP
EST. 1929
Ford Chevrolet Hyundai NISSAN GMC
2025 Nissan Sentra SV
Starting at $19,998
Aneshia Taylor
ataylor.billhood@gmail.com
Bill Hood Nissan • 318 N Morrison Blvd • Hammond
985-345-0321 • www.billhoodnissan.com

Tax Season Is Here
Call us now to get your best return!
We prepare:
Individual returns • Corporate returns
Partnership returns • Estate returns • Trust returns
Hebert Johnson & Associates, Inc.
Certified Public Accountants
18435 LA-22 #2, Ponchatoula • 985.386.5740 • www.cpahj.com

The Tangi Times

Natural Beauty

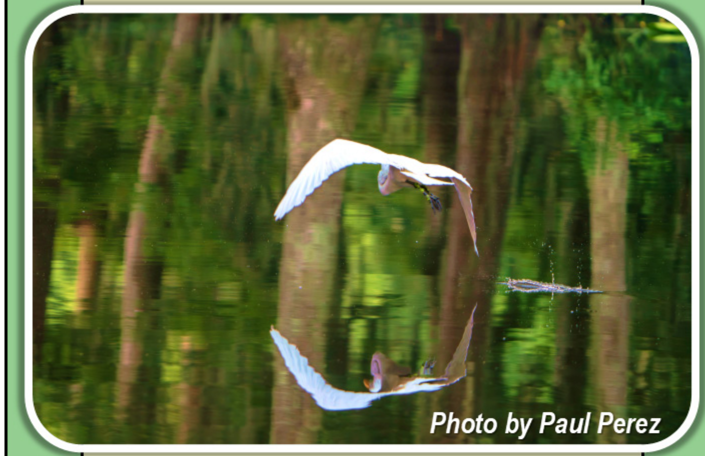


Photo by Paul Perez

We wonder if this graceful egret was admiring his (or her) reflection on the water's surface. The stillness of our beautiful back waters often give us twice the imagery to enjoy. This photograph was taken by Paul Perez in the magnificent swamps of the Northshore.

PROFESSIONAL HEATING & AIR
Kyle Siegrist
Design Specialist
- Residential/ Commercial
- Maintenace
- Service
- Replacments

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS NATE HomeAdvisor Angie's list 24/7
Free Estimates, and $500 OFF Your System Installation
(985) 551-1135 (985) 467-0114 Kyles@professionalhvac.me

Sheriff Sticker Holds March Prayer Breakfast

Tangi Times photo

On Wednesday, March 18, Sheriff Gerald Sticker held his monthly prayer breakfast at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Ponchatoula. After the sheriff welcomed guests, the program began with an invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by Pastor Gary Porter of the Union Chapel A.M.E. Church in Kentwood. D'Juana Richardson led the Praise & Worship, and an inspirational message was delivered by Evangelist Felicia Elzy Jones.

Sheriff Sticker took prayer requests from the attendees, and Pastor Marvin Vernon, Sr. of the Powerhouse Praise & Worship Center in Roseland issued a closing prayer and Blessing of the Meal.

The Tangi Times

The Tangi Times
The Newspaper of Tangipahoa, St. Helena, and Eastern Livingston Parishes
now offers
20% OFF SUBSCRIPTIONS
for
SENIORS and VETERANS
Call 985-467-0096
or email subs@tangitimes.com.
Gift subscriptions are included in this offer.

A Personal Invitation from Bobby Perez

Tangi Times President & Publisher

We are a blessed community here in the heart of the Florida Parishes with countless qualities that I adore. At the very top of that list is the spirit of charity that drenches our region. The love that pours from the hearts of our wonderful citizens is rewarding to witness, and we have many remarkable charitable organizations that need and deserve our support.

Today, I would like to focus on one of those organizations that is personally dear to me – OPTIONS. If you are already familiar with OPTIONS, then you likely know how vital they are to our society. Their mission is to help people with developmental and intellectual disabilities live and work in the community.

To visit to their main campus in Hammond or to attend one of their events is a life-changing experience. I do not make this statement lightly. When you personally see the work their outstanding team does to inspire reward, productivity, achievement, and effusive happiness in their participants, you cannot unsee it, and I am certain that you will instantly become an advocate for them, as I did years ago.

OPTIONS' Be the Key Breakfast, their largest annual fundraiser, will take place on the morning of Friday, April 24, and I am inviting you to join me personally at my table to support one of the most invaluable charitable organizations in our community.

My only request is that you give to OPTIONS as generously as you are comfortable contributing. No amount is too small. All donations are sealed and confidential and eminently appreciated by OPTIONS, as well as by me.

In return, I can promise you an eye-opening experience that you will not forget anytime soon and the overwhelming sensation of your heart bursting with pride and joy. It is one of the most gratifying experiences that you will ever have.

If you would like to be my guest on April 24, please email me at publisher@tangitimes.com. This is an invitation-only event, and all responses must be received by April 8, 2026.

I look forward to meeting you and sharing this moving experience with you.

Sincerely,

OPTIONS
PREMIER SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Tangi Times THE SCOOP

Every flavor of hometown news for your taste buds

The Louisiana Secretary of State's Office is warning residents about a fraudulent text message scam designed to steal personal information and potentially collect unnecessary fees. Officials say the messages falsely claim to be from the agency and use language similar to scams impersonating the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles, but stress that the office does not send unsolicited texts or emails requesting payment or threatening legal action. Secretary of State Nancy Landry urges anyone who receives the message to delete it immediately and avoid clicking any links or responding. Residents are encouraged to rely on the agency's official website and social media channels for accurate and up-to-date information.

The Amite City Police Department has arrested a suspect in connection with a February 17 shooting in the 500 block of South Second Street, where officers responding to reports of gunfire discovered numerous shell casings at the scene. Following an investigation that included witness statements, detectives identified Joshua Patrick, 23, of Amite, who was taken into custody March 18 and charged with two counts of attempted first-degree murder, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, illegal discharge of a firearm, assault by drive-by shooting, three counts of aggravated criminal damage to property, and a parole violation. Police Chief Lendrick Francois praised officers and investigators for their swift work and thanked community members for providing critical information, as well as the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office for assisting in the case.

A former teacher at Albany High School is in custody following allegations of inappropriate conduct involving a student, according to the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office. Deputies arrested 48-year-old Byron Humphrey on March 18 and booked him on one count of misdemeanor sexual battery; he is being held without bond. Authorities say the case stems from an alleged incident reported earlier this year, after concerns were raised about the teacher's behavior toward female students. The Livingston Parish School District declined to comment, citing privacy laws, but confirmed Humphrey is no longer employed with the school system. The investigation was handled by the sheriff's office, with officials saying the case remains under review.

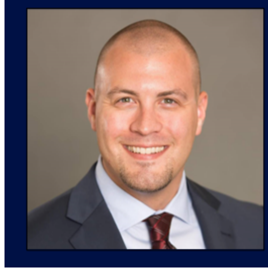
#TeamTangi had a great Northshore Focus meet-up in Baton Rouge at the Capitol for the start of the Regular Legislative Session!

Each spring the Tangipahoa Chamber partners with their peers from the St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce and Washington Chamber of Commerce in representing our business community at the Capitol. This is a great opportunity to be together and promote shared issues of importance to businesses along the I-12 corridor. We appreciate our Northshore Delegation who champion these issues every day.

With nearly 15,000 businesses and a combined population of over 600,000, Northshore Focus continues to highlight the strength, connectivity, and economic impact of our region, and #TeamTangi is proud to partner with this worthwhile effort!

Powell & Associates Insurance, LLC
Personal • Commercial
Life • Health • Auto
Flood • Workers Comp
and many more
Ponchatoula
985-386-8542
Hammond
985-542-0008
www.powellins.net

coverage for wherever you call home
Colby McCurdy
985-386-3538
760 W Pine St • Ponchatoula
Allstate



HARRY MCKNEELY & SON
FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY
HAMMOND & PONCHATOULA
WWW.HARRYMCKNEELY.COM
(985) 345-5801

VOTED READERS' CHOICE TANGI lifestyles best of 2023
TANGI lifestyles best of 2022
Visit us and see why we were voted
Best Title Company
and
Best Notary Service!
Toula Title
175 W. Hickory St.
Ponchatoula, LA 70454
985-467-1281
Mon-Fri 9:00-5:00
Toula Title
AUTO TITLE • NOTARY

Interior and Exterior Painting
Enhancing beauty since 2012
SP SOUTHDOWN PAINTING
DARYL HAYES
Master Painter
~ All work performed by the cheerful British owner ~
Estimates are always free!
504.339.5034 @southdownpainting
southdownpainting@gmail.com

G&R PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
Commercial & Residential Electrical Contractor
Generators • Solar • EV • Battery Backup
985-467-0667
G & R Professional Services • www.gnrelectricalservices.com

Purser Chiropractic
Adjustments
Dry Needling
Massage Therapy
Stretching
Auto Accidents
Adjustment/Massage Memberships
We Accept BCBS
Monday - Saturday 9:00am - 6:00pm • Appointment Only
1133 E Pine St, Suite D • Ponchatoula • 985.467.7000

LIKE and FOLLOW
The Tangi Times
for breaking news, story updates, and exciting videos

Louisiana Boys State Nominations Open

From American Legion Post 47

Each summer, a select group of young men from across Louisiana gather to participate in one of the state's most respected leadership programs: Louisiana Boys State. Sponsored by the American Legion, this weeklong experience offers high school juniors a unique opportunity to learn firsthand how government works while developing leadership skills, confidence, and lifelong friendships.

Louisiana Boys State is not a typical summer camp. Instead, it is an immersive, hands-on program where students create and operate their own mock government system. Participants are divided into "cities" and "parishes," where they campaign for office, vote in elections, and pass legislation. Through this process, attendees gain a deeper understanding of civic responsibility, public service, and the democratic process.

For many students, Boys State becomes a turning point. Alumni often describe the program as both challenging and inspiring, pushing them to step outside their comfort zones. Past participants have gone on to successful careers in law, business, education, and public service, with some even holding elected office.

Locally, Leander J. Kinchen Post 47 in Ponchatoula is currently seeking nominations for outstanding high school juniors who may be interested in attending the upcoming session of Louisiana Boys State. The post works closely with area high schools, civic organizations, and the general public to identify students who demonstrate leadership potential, good character, and a willingness to learn.

Students selected to attend will represent their schools and community while gaining invaluable experience that can strengthen college applications and future career opportunities. In many cases, sponsorships are available through the American Legion, making the program accessible to qualified candidates regardless of financial circumstances.

Parents, educators, and community members are encouraged to recommend eligible students. High school juniors who are motivated, curious about government, and eager to develop leadership skills are ideal candidates for this prestigious program.

For more information or to submit a nomination, interested individuals should contact Brandon Phares of Leander J. Kinchen Post 47 at post@ponchatoulapost47.org. Investing in the next generation of leaders starts with opportunities like Louisiana Boys State — where tomorrow's leaders begin their journey today.

The Tangi Times congratulates

NORTHSHORE MEDIA GROUP
HONORED AT THE LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS AWARDS
Lifetime Achievement
Johnny in the Morning
Best Podcast
Who Killed Roxanne?
Best Community Service
TARC Radiothon

Northshore Media Group received multiple honors last week from the Louisiana Association of Broadcasters Prestige Awards, highlighting the organization's continued excellence in broadcasting, community service, and storytelling.

Veteran broadcaster Johnny Chauvin was recognized with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award, honoring his decades-long career and lasting impact on the local media landscape. His dedication to informing and entertaining audiences has made him a respected voice throughout the region.

Northshore Media Group also received the award for Best Podcast in a Small Market for its true crime series, "Who Killed Roxanne." The podcast has drawn significant attention for its in-depth exploration of a 1982 cold case murder.

In addition, the organization's participation in the annual TARC Radiothon was honored with the Best Community Service Award, recognizing its meaningful contributions and ongoing commitment to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities.

Northshore Media Group is a locally owned media company serving Southeast Louisiana and Southwest Mississippi. The company operates a diverse portfolio that includes radio, print, digital marketing services, podcasting, and more. With a dozen broadcast properties and multiple media platforms, Northshore Media Group delivers local news, entertainment, and marketing solutions to businesses and communities alike.

4TH ANNUAL
BENNETT'S STORY BENEFIT CAR SHOW
PRESENTED BY TANGIPAHOA PARISH FAIR
MAY 2, 2026
FLORIDA PARISH ARENA
AMITE, LA
7AM - 2PM
SILENT AUCTION & LIVE AUCTION • FOOD VENDORS • SWAP MEET • MERCHANDISE VENDORS

HOMESCHOOL LOUISIANA
Helping Families Homeschool Successfully since 1983

Louisiana Homeschool Conference
MARCH 27-28, 2026

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Christy-Faith
Join us in Hammond, LA, for a day of refreshment, information, and encouragement!

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS
Kathy Eggers
Susanna Jarrett
Angela Slayton
Roger and Jan Smith
David and Shirley Quine

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

Visit HomeschoolLouisiana.org to register or learn more

GREAT FOOD. GREAT MUSIC. GREAT CAUSE.
The Open Range Band
3RD Street
27TH • 6 - 9 PM
28TH • 11 AM - 2 PM
LIVE MUSIC
FRIDAY & SATURDAY • MARCH 27 & 28
Scan Me
HAMMOND BBQ DOWNTOWN • HAMMOND
HammondBBQ.com
SPONSORED BY:

Legal and Public Notices

TOWN OF AMITE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2026

The Mayor and City Council of the Town of Amite City, Louisiana came together in special session on the 18th day of February 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the meeting room of City Hall, 212 E. Oak St., Amite, LA 70422.

Declaration
City Clerk Jewel McCoy read the public input statement.

Mayor Walter Daniels III called the meeting to order and asked McCoy for roll call.

Council members present:
Mayor Pro-Tem Roseline “Rose” Sumrall
Maria Coleman
Shirley Core
Charles “Mose” Guzzardo
Kenyetta Richardson

Council members absent: None

Others in attendance:
City Manager Mark Kolwe, Police Chief Lendrick Francois, Fire Chief J. D. Stevens

Prayer and Pledge
Richardson offered the opening prayer followed by Daniels leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Walter Daniels III
A motion was made by Guzzardo, seconded by Core to approve adjustments to February 2026 water bills due to inclement weather. A roll call vote was taken as follows:
YEAS: Coleman, Core, Guzzardo, Richardson, Sumrall
NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None
Motion passed.

A motion was made by Sumrall, seconded by Guzzardo to remove from the agenda the approval of new occupational license for Sweet Magnolia Events located at 804 N. 2nd St., Amite.
Motion passed with no objection.

A motion was made by Sumrall, seconded by Core to approve Resolution No. 01-2026 – A Resolution to sale manual-read water meters. A roll call vote was taken as follows:
YEAS: Coleman, Core, Guzzardo, Richardson, Sumrall
NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None
Motion passed.

A motion was made by Coleman, seconded by Core to approve Resolution No. 02-2026 – A resolution to sale garbage carts. A roll call vote was taken as follows:
YEAS: Coleman, Core, Guzzardo, Richardson, Sumrall
NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None
Motion passed.

A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Sumrall to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

____________________ ________________________
Jewel McCoy Walter Daniels III
City Clerk Mayor

Cost of notice: $36.75

The Tangi Times
Established 1981
U.S. Periodicals Postal Permit No. 666730
Postmaster, address correspondence,
and change of address orders to:
PO Box 743, Ponchatoula, LA 70454

Bobby Perez – Publisher, Editor in Chief
Ryley Perez – Subscriptions Manager
Amanda Long – Director of Operations
Mary Haley – Design Master
Tommy Hazlewood – Distribution Manager
Kirk Lee – Production Coordinator
Brittany Rice – Brand Strategist
Kasia Perkowska – Feature Columnist
Stefanie Brooke – Staff Journalist
Political Columnists: Jeff Crouere, Royal Alexander
Executive Producer, Video: Tommy Hazlewood
Sports Editor: Tommy Hazlewood
Sports Journalists: Pablo Crewes, Joel Ray, Ethan Peltier, Dwight Williams, Jr., Wes Younger, Matt Greer
Content Contributors: Michelle Gallo, Jim Perrin, Brett Duncan, Richard Meek, Nikki Taylor
Image Contributors: Phillip Colwart, Paul Perez
Culinary Reviews by The Unknown Eater
Editorial by Old Hardhide, the Alligator
Technical Writers: Stacey Levin, Tonya Aiken
Character Creations by: Bobby Perez, Stefanie Brooke, Paul Perez

The Tangi Times is the Official Journal for
TANGIPAHOA PARISH
Town of Amite City
Town of Independence
Town of Kentwood
Ponchatoula Area Recreation District #1
City of Ponchatoula
Town of Roseland
South Tangipahoa Parish Port Commission
Tangipahoa Parish Clerk of Court
Tangipahoa Consolidated Gravity Drainage Dist. #1
Tangipahoa Consolidated Gravity Drainage Dist. #4
Tangipahoa Consolidated Gravity Drainage Dist. #5
Tangipahoa Parish Hospital Dist. #1
Tangipahoa Parish Hospital Dist. #2
Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement Dist. #1
Tangipahoa Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau
Tangipahoa Parish Fire Dist. #1
Tangipahoa Parish Fire Dist. #2
Tangipahoa Parish Government and Board of Commissions
Tangipahoa Parish Registrar of Voters
Tangipahoa Parish School System
Tangipahoa Recreation District #3
Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff’s Office
Village of Tangipahoa
Village of Tickfaw
ST. HELENA PARISH
Town of Greensburg
Village of Montpelier
St. Helena Parish Council on Aging
St. Helena Parish Hospital Board
St. Helena Parish Fire District #4
St. Helena Parish Sheriff’s Office

PRESS MEMBERSHIPS
Louisiana Press Association
HONORS & AWARDS
Louisiana Press Association Freedom of Information Award, 1st Place – Investigative Reporting, 1st Place – Editorial Writing, Gibbs Adams Award for Investigative Reporting, Brown Pelican Award for Environmental Reporting, Best Front Page, Best Sports Column, Best Headline, Best Regular Column

SUBSCRIPTIONS
$50/year/edition; 3 editions; 52 issues/edition
Delivered locally via USPS
Print editions published every
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

CONTACT INFORMATION
PO Box 743 • Ponchatoula, LA 70454
publisher@tangitimes.com
985.467.0096

TOWN OF AMITE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 2, 2026

The Mayor and City Council of the Town of Amite City, Louisiana came together on the second day of February 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room of City Hall, 212 E. Oak St., Amite, LA 70422 for a public hearing and regular session.

Public Hearing
Jewel McCoy called the public hearing to order and asked if anyone would like to make a comment on the following proposed ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 01-2026
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A 2 ½% ANNUAL RAISE
FOR THE CITY CLERK
City Clerk– Annual Raise to a salary of $59,450.00

ORDINANCE NO. 02-2026
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE MAYOR OF AMITE CITY TO BE A FULL TIME POSITION WORKING 35 HOURS A WEEK

No comments were voiced.

McCoy closed the Public Hearing and turned the gavel over to Mayor Walter Daniels III for the regular council meeting.

____

Mayor Daniels called the council meeting to order and asked McCoy for a roll call.

The following council members were present:
Mayor Pro-Tem Roseline “Rose” Sumrall
Shirley Core
Charles “Mose” Guzzardo

Council members absent:
Maria Coleman
Kenyetta Richardson

Others in attendance:
City Manager Mark Kolwe, Assistant City Attorney Brad Stevens, Police Chief Lendrick Francois, Fire Chief J. D. Stevens.

Prayer/Pledge
Guzzardo led the evening prayer followed by Daniels leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members Maria Coleman and Kenyetta Richardson entered the council meeting.

Public Input:
None

Minutes
A motion was made by Sumrall, seconded by Guzzardo to approve the following minutes:
January 6, 2026 - Regular council meeting
Motion passed with no objection.

Financial Statements
A motion was made by Sumrall, seconded by Core to approve the following financial statements:
Budget to actual – December 31, 2025
Cash disbursements – December 31, 2025
Motion passed with no objection.

Mayor Walter Daniels III
Northshore Technical Community College representatives Errick Baldwin and Bridget Laborde informed the council about the new initiative to offer a free course to help locals obtain their high school equivalency diploma. Spencer Robinson with the Tangipahoa Parish Library stated this program is being offered on Saturdays at the Amite Library free to anyone over the age of eighteen.

A motion was made by Sumrall, seconded by Guzzardo to remove the Planning and Zoning Board’s recommendation to subdivide property #270903 on Camile Street from 7 twenty-five-foot lots to 3 fifty-eight-foot lots.
Motion passed with no objection.

A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Coleman to approve Ordinance No. 01-2026 An ordinance Establishing a 2 ½% Annual Raise for the City Clerk. A roll call vote was taken as follows:
YEAS: Coleman, Richardson
NAYS: Sumrall, Guzzardo ABSTAIN: Core ABSENT: None
Motion failed.

After the council discussed the previous vote, a motion was made by Sumrall, seconded by Richardson to retract the previous motion and vote. A roll call vote was taken as follows:
YEAS: Coleman, Core, Guzzardo, Richardson, Sumrall
NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None
Motion passed.

A motion was made by Sumrall, seconded by Richardson to approve Ordinance No. 01-2026 An Ordinance Establishing a 2 ½% Annual Raise for the City Clerk. A roll call vote was taken as follows:
YEAS: Coleman, Core, Guzzardo, Richardson, Sumrall
NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None
Motion passed.

A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Coleman to approve Ordinance No. 02-2026 An Ordinance Establishing the Mayor Position to be a Full Time Position working 35 Hours a Week. A roll call vote was taken as follows:
YEAS: Coleman
NAYS: Guzzardo, Richardson ABSTAIN: Core, Sumrall ABSENT: None
Motion failed.

A motion was made by Sumrall, seconded by Richardson to approve the following occupational licenses:
a. Art Gallery, 121 South First Street
b. B. Watson Blings & Things, 125 East Oak Street
c. Amite Pawn Shop, 811 South First Street
Motion passed with no objection.

A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Core to approve a Beer and Liquor License Renewal for Central Avenue Sports Bar & Steak House located at 104 North East Central Avenue. A roll call vote was taken as follows:
YEAS: Coleman, Core, Guzzardo, Richardson, Sumrall
NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None
Motion passed.

Jacob Waguespack, Joshua Smith and Ty Anderson with Faulk and Winkler LLC, CPAs presented the audit report for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

Mayor Daniels invited everyone to the Black History Program on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 9 am, in the Amite City Courtroom.

Council Member Shirley Core
Update on Daniel St. Bridge – Kolwe stated with the exception of a small issue with the Vexus contractor, the repairs have begun on the bridge.

Council Member Charles “Mose” Guzzardo
Mulberry Street Extension – Ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for February 11, 2026, at 10:30 am. The project should be completed by the end of June 2026.

Mayor Pro-Tem Roseline “Rose” Sumrall
Police - Chief Francois reminded everyone of the “Parade of Champions” scheduled for Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 12 p.m.

Fire Department - Chief Stevens stated the fire department is ready for the Oyster Festival.

Chamber – Current Chamber President, Luther Tolliver, introduced himself and stated he was looking forward to working with the town to move it in a positive direction.

A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Core to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

____________________ ________________________
Jewel McCoy Walter Daniels III
City Clerk Mayor

Cost of notice: $122.00

TOWN OF AMITE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
February 24, 2026

The Mayor and City Council of the Town of Amite City, Louisiana came together in special session on the 24th day of February 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in the meeting room of City Hall, 212 E. Oak St., Amite, LA 70422.

Mayor Walter Daniels III called the meeting to order and asked McCoy for roll call.

Council members present:
Maria Coleman
Shirley Core
Charles “Mose” Guzzardo
Kenyetta Richardson

Council members absent:
Mayor Pro-Tem Roseline “Rose” Sumrall

Others in attendance:
City Manager Mark Kolwe, Police Chief Lendrick Francois, City Attorney Chuck Reid, City Assistant Attorney Brad Stevens, Fire Chief J. D. Stevens

Prayer and Pledge
Richardson offered the opening prayer followed by Daniels leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Walter Daniels III
A motion was made by Core, seconded by Richardson to approve Resolution #03-2026 CWEF – a grant to purchase inserta valves and water meters. A roll call vote was taken as follows:
YEAS: Coleman, Core, Guzzardo, Richardson,
NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: Sumrall
Motion passed.

A motion was made by Guzzardo, seconded by Coleman to approve Resolution #04-2026 LGAP – a grant to purchase tables, chairs, upgrade outdoor sign and outdoor lighting for the Community Center. Also, purchase sewer camera, hand road saw and walk behind road saw for the sewer department. A roll call vote was taken as follows:
YEAS: Coleman, Core, Guzzardo, Richardson,
NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: Sumrall
Motion passed.

A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Coleman to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

____________________ ________________________
Jewel McCoy, City Clerk Walter Daniels III, Mayor

Cost of notice: $44.63

Consolidated Gravity Drainage District #1
of Tangipahoa Parish
48571 Highway 51 North
Tickfaw, LA 70466

Notice Posted: March 20, 2026

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026
5:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order
2. Please silence all cell phones
3. Roll Call
4. Prayer
5. Pledge of Allegiance (All Veterans and active military, please render the proper salute)
6. Visitors
7. Public Comment
8. Adoption of Minutes of Regular Meeting dated March 11, 2026
9. Project Updates – Spangler Engineering
   a. Approval of Change Order No. 1 and Final for W8 Main Improvements at Ponchatoula Cemetery [FY2025]
   b. Final Acceptance of W8 Main Improvements at Ponchatoula Cemetery [FY2025]
   c. Project Updates
10. Administrator’s Report
    a. February Financial Report
11. Personnel
12. Legal Matters
13. Commissioners’ Privileges
14. Adjourn

For: Joey Mayeaux
President
By: Stanan Capdeboscq
Secretary-Treasurer

In Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need secial assistance,

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stanan Capdeboscq at (985) 542-4292 or stanan@tangipahoadrainage.org, prior to 3 pm CST on the day preceding the scheduled meeting, describing the assistance that is necessary.

Cost of notice: $47.00

NOTICE

Brothers Food Express Inc., dba Brothers Food Mart, is applying to the Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control of the state of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of high and low alcohol content at retail in Parish of Tangipahoa Parish at the following address: 365 West Pine Street, Ponchatoula, LA 70454

Brothers Food Express Inc.
dba: Brothers Food Mart

Members:
Fahd Al Awadhi

Search more public notices at
Louisianapublicnotice.com
and on
The Tangi Times
website at
www.tangitimes.com

The sNoBalls Open 2026 Scholarship Applications for Students and Educators

From the sNoBalls

Aiming to expand arts access across southeast Louisiana, the sNoBalls are excited to release their Summer Arts Camp and Arts Educator scholarship applications.

"We have been having an awesome third season," founder Marcia Arceneaux said. "Our membership and outreach continue to grow with new people, new parades, and a new scholarship."

Since their debut 2023-2024 season, the group has awarded 18 scholarships for students to attend camps, such as the New Orleans Ballet Association's Summer Intensive and the Community Music School's Chamber Music Camp at Southeastern Louisiana University.

"Our camp scholarships are for K-12 students wanting to continue their studies in music, theatre, dance, and visual arts," board member Alicia Barnes said. "We want to reduce financial barriers and support arts programs, especially those in southeast Louisiana."

In addition to student scholarships, this year the group has added an arts educator scholarship.

"The last two years, we noticed a lack of camps that cater to middle and high school students, a critical age to develop their skills and prepare them for advanced study," Arceneaux said. "To help these students reach the next level, we are funding some educators to offer arts camps, specifically for this age group."

The group is particularly interested in programs that serve students impacted by economic hardship, geographic isolation, disability, or limited access to school- or community-based arts programming. This scholarship is awarded to adult arts educators leading camps, workshops, residencies, productions, or similar educational experiences that provide no-cost instruction to students in music, visual art, theatre, or dance.

Scholarship funds may be used to offset essential program costs, including educational materials, sheet music, props, art supplies, production expenses, and compensation for educators or teaching artists. Applications are due by April 15th and are available at the group's website.

To fund both scholarships, the group holds a silent auction during its annual ball.

The group is currently accepting auction donations. Popular items include gift cards, tickets to shows or sporting events, lessons, art, and custom items.

2025 Scholarship recipient Isaac Pound, who attended the Northshore Strings Fiddle Camp, said, "It definitely helped me learn new things and strengthen my skills, built my confidence, and I got to learn from clinicians from all around the country and even Ireland!"

"As a child, the arts saved my life," Arceneaux said. "I'm dedicated to ensuring other children have this opportunity. Everyone is invited to join us at our ball to celebrate the arts and raise money for these scholarships."

The ball is on Saturday, April 25, 2026 from 7-11:30 pm at the Ponchatoula Knights of Columbus Hall. The event will feature food, performances, a silent auction, a DJ, and more.

"This is such a fun night," Arceneaux said. "Our theme this year is Let's glow! So dress in your best neon outfit, your fancy ball gown, or glittering get-up. Just come to have fun."

The sNoBalls is a Ponchatoula-based group that welcomes women dedicated to funding summer camps for K-12 students and arts educators. With unique hats that reflect their chosen snoball flavor, they appear in parades, support community events, and host a fund-raising ball.

To learn more about these scholarships, visit thesnoballs.com and follow them on social media for details.

LSU Researcher Hunts Lithium in Louisiana Oilfield Brines

From LSU

The United States imports 25% of its lithium, which is listed as critical mineral by both the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Geological Survey. Meanwhile, brines in the Smackover Formation, which stretches from Texas to Florida through Louisiana, could help meet domestic and global needs.

Pinpointing the richest brines requires extensive and time-consuming sampling and analysis. LSU researchers hope to make the search for lithium-rich brines faster by characterizing the formation waters, defining what's in them and how it came to be there.

"Once we understand how the brines may have originated, that's when we'd be able to predict where else they might occur," Department of Petroleum Engineering Associate Professor Ipsita Gupta said.

Developing a multibillion-dollar lithium project can take a decade or more. The global lithium supply will fall short by an estimated 40 percent in 2040. Time is of the essence.

Characterizing the formation waters is part of Gupta's effort to determine whether the Louisiana section of the Smackover contains commercial levels of lithium, for today or the near future.

That project received $261,000 from Idaho National Laboratory/Batelle Energy Alliance through the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Smackover is a Jurassic Age formation, approximately 150 million years old. The brines likely have a complex history that includes remnants of ancient sea water and other fluids that interacted with the surrounding minerals and chemicals over millions of years.

Lithium concentrations of upwards of 200 parts per million (ppm) are needed to make extraction profitable with current methods. In late 2024, the U.S. Geological Survey found lithium concentrations of 400 ppm in brines in the southwest Arkansas portion of the formation.

That report sparked a lithium rush in Arkansas and Texas, along with concerns about threats to public and environmental health from the water-intensive process and the possibility of toxins polluting freshwater resources. ExxonMobil, Chevron, and General Motors are among the companies that have announced plans to extract lithium on thousands of acres in the Smackover.

Gupta said it's too early to say whether the Louisiana portion of the Smackover will yield similar lithium amounts. However, even brines with lower concentrations, 70-80 ppm, could prove commercially viable in the next few years as research advances.

"Technology always improves," Gupta said. "When we were students, shale was only an oil source rock. It was never considered a producer. But then hydraulic fracturing changed everything."

Twenty years ago, no oil came from domestic shale formations. Today, shales account for more than 60% of U.S. production.

Gupta's project involves researchers in California (Berkeley Lab) and Idaho (Idaho National Lab), a development she describes as "scientifically exciting and very collaborative." Her team is analyzing brine samples from 14 different wells in Louisiana for 21 elements in addition to lithium. Those elements include the critical minerals boron, cobalt, chromium, copper, lead, magnesium, manganese, nickel, rubidium, vanadium and zinc.

LSU's wet lab facilities in the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences perform the analysis. The samples can only be analyzed for a few elements at a time, so it takes weeks to months to complete the evaluation for each well.

After completing the Louisiana project, Gupta and her team plan to apply for funding to research critical minerals' presence in the rest of the Smackover.

"We should study the entire formation and sample much more than we are sampling right now," she said. "Because there's a lot of variability in the concentrations of lithium."

By mapping the entire formation, Gupta's research could establish baseline data for future critical minerals extraction, providing a guide for producers as technology advances and prices change.

Federal Trial Jury Convicts Attorneys in Staged Collision Scheme

From U.S. Attorney

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA — The U.S. Attorney's Office and the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice announced that on Friday, March 20, 2026, VANESSA MOTTA ("MOTTA"), age 44, and JASON F. GILES ("GILES"), age 47, were found guilty of all charges pending against them, following a three-week jury trial presided over by Chief U.S. District Judge Wendy B. Vitter. The jury also convicted law firms MOTTA LAW LLC and THE KING FIRM LLC and co-conspirator DIAMANIKE F. STALBERT ("STALBERT"), age 35.

The jury found MOTTA, MOTTA LAW, GILES, THE KING FIRM guilty of all counts against them. STALBERT was found guilty of making false statements to federal agents.

Count 1 charged all five defendants with conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 1349. Count 2 charged GILES and THE KING FIRM, and counts 4 and 5 charged MOTTA and MOTTA LAW with mail fraud, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341, 2. Count 6 charged MOTTA and MOTTA LAW, and count 8 charged GILES and THE KING FIRM, with obstruction of justice, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. §§ 1503(a), 2. Count 7 charged MOTTA and MOTTA LAW, and count 9 charged GILES and THE KING FIRM, with witness tampering in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. §§ 1512(b)(1), 2. Count 10 charged STALBERT with making false statements to federal agents, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2).

According to court documents, the defendants participated in a long-running scheme to defraud insurance companies and commercial trucking companies by staging and litigating fraudulent automobile collisions to collect insurance company payouts. That scheme began approximately in December 2011 and continued until December 2024, and it involved New Orleans area personal injury attorneys (including MOTTA, MOTTA LAW, GILES, and THE KING FIRM) paying "slammers" to recruit passengers to participate in purposeful collisions with automobiles, especially 18-wheeler trucks with large commercial insurance policies. The attorneys would then litigate those cases on behalf of the passengers, often encouraging those passengers to seek medically unnecessary neck and back surgeries to incur medical costs and increase the size of future insurance company settlements. Along with slammers, attorneys, and passengers, the scheme also included "spotters," who drove getaway cars for the slammers, and "recruiters" like STALBERT, who facilitated numerous staged collisions by bringing new passengers into the scheme.

The jury also found MOTTA and MOTTA LAW guilty of obstruction of justice and witness tampering relating to an effort to pay a witness to move to the Bahamas to impede any cooperation with federal authorities. The jury likewise found GILES and THE KING FIRM guilty of obstruction of justice and witness tampering for secretly recording a charged individual in October 2020 in an effort to manufacture exculpatory evidence. STALBERT was acquitted of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud.

"Today's verdict was the culmination of a lengthy investigation that amassed overwhelming evidence proving the defendants' roles in a years-long scheme to defraud, as well as their subsequent efforts to obstruct justice and tamper with witnesses," said First Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael M. Simpson. "MOTTA, MOTTA LAW, GILES, and THE KING FIRM successfully launched a fraudulent scheme of epic proportions that both victimized the judicial system and exploited the auto insurance industry, all to enrich themselves with millions of dollars in ill-gotten gains. This prosecution, and today's verdict, makes clear that no one is above the law. I commend the trial team, and our law enforcement partners for their relentless and meticulous work to shine a light on this scourge and hold those involved responsible."

"The defendants in this case pursued personal fortune through lies and deception that potentially impacted every auto insurance policy holder in Louisiana," said Special Agent in Charge Jonathan Tapp of the FBI New Orleans Field Office. "The FBI along with our partners at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Louisiana State Police, and the Metropolitan Crime Commission have worked for the last seven years to uncover every instance of fraud, resulting in successful cases against more than fifty individuals. We will continue that pursuit as long as it takes."

Chief U.S. District Judge Wendy B. Vitter will sentence the defendants MOTTA and MOTTA LAW on July 7, 2026, GILES and THE KING FIRM on July 14, 2026, and STALBERT on July 21, 2026. The maximum penalty for mail fraud, mail and wire fraud conspiracy, and witness tampering is twenty years imprisonment, up to three years of supervised release, and up to a $250,000 fine or twice the gross gain to any defendant or twice the gross loss to any victim. The maximum penalty for obstruction of justice is ten years imprisonment, up to three years of

supervised release, and up to a $250,000 fine or twice the gross gain to any defendant or twice the gross loss to any victim. The maximum penalty for making false statements to a federal agent is up to five years of imprisonment, a $250,000 fine, and up to three years of supervised release. The Court may also impose restitution. Additionally, each defendant also faces payment of a $100 mandatory special assessment fee per count of conviction.

Including this jury trial, sixty-three (63) defendants have been charged in the federal probe into the staging of automobile collisions with other vehicles in the New Orleans metropolitan area.

The U.S. Attorney's Office and the Money Laundering, Narcotics and Forfeiture Section of the Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice, would like to acknowledge the tremendous work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the New Orleans Police Department, and the Louisiana State Police with this matter, as well as extending thanks to the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office and the Metropolitan Crime Commission for their assistance.

The prosecution of this case is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew R. Payne, Senior Litigation Counsel; Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian M. Klebba, Chief of the Financial Crimes Unit; Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Katherine Kaufman; and Trial Attorneys J. Ryan McLaren and Samir Paul of the Money Laundering, Narcotics and Forfeiture Section.

DEMAND EXCELLENCE
YOUR VEHICLE DESERVES IT.
TOPCOAT
Paint ~&~ Body
MINOR COLLISION • CUSTOM
109 Tower Drive, Suite B • Hammond, LA
225-978-9170

The Tangi Times Sports Lounge

Tommy Hazlewood
Sports Editor

Ethan Peltier
Sports Reporter

Pablo Crewes
Sportswriter

Dwight Williams Jr.
Sportswriter

Campus Corner

By PABLO CREWES
Tangi Times Sportswriter

On Friday, the Southeastern Louisiana softball team continued their home stand by welcoming in the Northwestern State Demons in a weekend Southland Conference series at North Oaks Park. The Lady Lions entered the contest sitting alone atop the SLC at 6-0 and winners of nine straight, the last half dozen in run-rule-shortened contests.

In Game one of the twin bill, Coach Rick Fremin surrendered a first-inning run but responded with six of their own in the bottom, highlighted by a grand slam homerun by Albany's Brilee Ford. It was the fifth round-tripper of the year for the junior transfer from McNeese State and her second four-run shot of the week in a 10-2 win in six innings.

Former Covington High product Colleen Kulivan added a pair of hits and runs, while Ka'Lyn Watson scored twice. Shelby Morris, Chloe Magee, and Cydnee Schneider collected two hits each. Sophomore pitcher Hallie Burns picked up the win after going 4 and two-thirds and striking out four to run her record to 9-3, the third most wins in conference.

In the late game, SLU put the winning and run-rule game streak on the line. One would continue, the other would not, as Coach Rick Fremin's club won in a walk-off thanks to the Southland Conference's Hitter of the Week, Maria Distiller's 2-run shot in the bottom of the seventh.

Cera Blanchard came off the bench for the final one and two-thirds to sit down all five Demons that she faced to improve to 8-1 with the win. The victory was the eleventh straight, tying for the school's longest winning streak.

Also on Friday night, the Lion baseball team was on the road for the first time in league play when they traveled to Lake Charles to square off with McNeese. Coach Bobby Barbier's club entered the contest sitting tied atop the 11-team league and fresh off a 3-0 win over nationally ranked Oklahoma.

The Cowboys proved to be rude hosts, scoring five runs in the bottom of the first followed by two more in the second to jump out to a 7-0 lead en route to an 8-2 win. Southeastern struck back with a run in the third on a Ben Robicheaux RBI double that scored catcher Blaise Preister and another in the fourth on an Alex Perry grounder that drove in Connor Cuff, but that would be all of the offense that the visitors could muster on the evening.

Saturday morning, a pair of school records fell, the first came in track & field over in Baton Rouge at the LSU opener. Junior sprinter Onyah Favour earned a silver medal in the 800-meter with a time of 2:11.73, setting a new best and breaking a 13-year-old mark.

Two other Lady Lions, Bailey Babin and Julia Jenkins, earned bronze in the javelin and long jump. On the men's side, Gerrit Visser placed second in the hammer throw and Donald Butler finished third in the high jump.

A little further west, Angie Smith's beach volleyball girls were in Youngsville for the SLC's Mid Year Invitational, riding back-to-back wins and a 2-1 mark in conference play. Southeastern dropped the 9am match to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, 5-0.

After lunch, the sandy Lions rebounded with a 3-2 win over Houston Christian. Mia McKinney and Emmaleigh Vincent, Makayla Hicks and Cadie Kusy, and Elizabeth Hardouin and Genevieve Schubert were each winners in straight sets.

Softball returned to action at noon, looking to sweep NSU. The winning streak extended to 12 with a 2-1 victory in a pitcher's duel. Northwestern struck first in the top of the third, only to see the home team tie it up in the bottom half on a Shelby Morris grounder that plated Kailey Dixon.

Ford drove in the game winner on an RBI single that drove in pinch runner Breezy Pantalion in the bottom of the fourth. Blanchard picked up her second W of the weekend, moving her record to 9-1 after pitching her way out of a bases-loaded jam in the top of the sixth.

The Lady Lions improved to 26-9 with the win, including the Southland's only unblemished record at 9-0. The dozen straight wins sets a new high mark for Southeastern softball.

Meanwhile, over in Lake Charles, Southeastern's baseball team couldn't capitalize on a fast start that saw a pair of home runs in the first and another in the second, falling 8-7 to MSU in 11 innings. Robichaux sent the game's first pitch over the left field wall (his fifth of the year), followed by a 2-run shot by Doyle product Peyton Woods (also his fifth) two batters later for the 3-0 edge.

The Pokes answered with a pair of runs in the bottom half only to see Robichaux go yard for the second time with a two-run shot in the top of the second. McNeese added another in the home half to make it 5-3, and that's how it would stay until the top of the fifth, until a Brody Capps RBI double that scored Mo Little.

The Cowboys answered with four straight and took a 7-6 advantage into the top of the ninth, but a bases-loaded walk to St. Thomas alum Dane Watts scored Robichaux to knot things up at 7. After a scoreless tenth, the home team plated one in the bottom of the 11th to claim the win.

Saturday afternoon, two of the Southland's best tennis teams squared off in Hammond when Jason Hayes' Lady Lions played host to Stephen F. Austin. Southeastern dropped their third straight, 5-2, despite wins in the #1 doubles by Paige Duncan and Bente Bierma (6-3) and Adriana Tirado (7-5 and 6-3) in the #6 singles.

SLU dropped to 9-5 on the year and 2-2 in Southland play.

Sunday morning, the sandy Lions got a little revenge for the tennis team, knocking off Six Million Dollar Man State, 4-1. Gabriela Hrubanova and Mia Sauers, McKinney and Maggie Paiva, Hicks and Kusy, and Hardouin and Schubert were all winners in straight sets. Southeastern finished the two-day event by knocking off Nicholls, 4-1, in the same fashion.

Over in the heel of the Boot, SLU's baseball team was out to avoid the sweep at McNeese while the Cowboys were looking to put up eight runs or more for the fifth straight time. Both teams happened, as SLU sent 11 batters to the plate in the 6th inning to claim a 13-8 win.

The decisive frame featured homeruns by Cuff and Perry and a grand slam by Watts to break the game open. Perry homered twice and added a double in a 3-5 day that included three RBI. Robichaux scored three times, and Cuff scored twice while driving in two more, while five other Lions scored in the win.

Five pitchers saw action, starting with Springfield's Blake Lowell, who struck out 5 in four and a third, earning a no-decision. Nick Toups came on in relief to claim the win and even his record at 1-1. Levi Shaffer and Logan Freche also saw action in the win, which brought the Lions back over .500 in Southland play at 5-4 and 13-11 on the year.

This week's action sees the Lady Lion tennis team take on Northwestern State at home today at 11am. Then on Tuesday, softball heads to Monroe to square off with Louisiana-Monroe at five. Baseball hits the road for a game at 12th-ranked Southern Miss.

You can read up more on all of what happened over the weekend and see how to watch, listen to, and track live stats by logging on to the official home of Southeastern Athletics, lionsports.net.

PHS Sports Digest

By ETHAN PELTIER
Tangi Times Sportswriter

Lady Wave softball was dominant last week, going 5-0.

Tuesday at Mandeville- 8-2 W

Rae'El Wheat drove in four runs with a single and two doubles. Ayeva Nobles also had four hits. Abby Dagro earned the win on the mound, pitching a complete game, giving up two runs on six hits, and striking out eight.

Thursday vs Covington- 15-0 W (3 innings)

Ayeva Nobles drove in four runs including a three-run homer in the second inning. The Lady Wave scored 13 runs in the second inning, including Nobles' homerun and a base-clearing triple from Lillian Virga.

Dagro earned the win on the mound, pitching three innings, only allowing one hit, and striking out five.

Friday vs Pearl River- 9-3 W

Lillian Virga drove in four runs including a three-run homerun to start off the game in the first inning. Dagro earned another win on the mound, pitching 3⅔ innings, allowing two runs on four hits, and striking out six.

Saturday vs John Curtis- 10-4 W

The Lady Wave used a five run fifth inning to take the win. Dagro earned another win on the mound, pitching a complete game, giving up four runs on seven hits, and striking out five.

Saturday vs Lakeshore- 11-8 W

Even after trailing 6-2 in the fifth inning, the girls found a way to win, scoring six runs in the sixth inning capped off by a grand slam from Lillian Virga. Virga also earned the win on the mound, pitching five innings, giving up five runs on six hits, and striking out four. Demi Sanchez, Abby Dagro, and Rae'El Wheat all had three hits.

The Lady Wave now improve to 17-5 on the season with a 2-0 district record.

This week, the girls take on Northlake Christian at home on Monday, Hammond at home on Tuesday, and Mandeville at home on Thursday. Over the weekend, the Lady Wave will travel to Quitman, MS, to take on Quitman on Friday and Ruston and West Monroe on Saturday.

Green Wave baseball went 1-1 last week.

Tuesday vs St. John- 4-9 L

The boys stayed in the game throughout, but St. John turned the game upside down with a five-run seventh inning to take the win.

Saturday at Franklinton- 11-5 W

Israel Cutrer finished with four hits, including a double and three singles. The Green Wave won, thanks in part to a six-run sixth inning capped off by a two-run triple from Brock Barksdale. Brayden Tardie earned the win on the mound, pitching four innings, giving up four runs on four hits, and striking out two.

The boys now sit at 4-15 on the season.

This week, the Wave start district play as they travel to St. Paul's on Tuesday, host St. Paul's on Thursday, and travel to Mandeville on Saturday.

Red Birds Roll Panthers

By SCOTT MEYER
Tangi Times Sports Contributor

The Bayou Lacombe Cardinals traveled into the Sunshine State on Saturday night, facing the Pensacola Panthers and grabbing a key divisional win, 37-20, in Week 2 of the Next Level Football Alliance. The Cards, who have played in the last two NLFA title games, sit at 2-0 on the year and are the league's only undefeated team.

The Cardinals got on the board first with a James Furman (Lakeshore High School, John Hopkins University) 32-yard field goal with 9:30 remaining in the first quarter.

After giving up a safety to the Panthers on a blocked punt, QB Jervious Epherson (Northshore High School) connected on a 71-yard scoring pass to WR Xavier Chapman (Lakeshore High School, Southeastern Louisiana University) to increase the lead 9-2 with 8:20 remaining in the 2nd quarter. Pensacola answered the Birds' call with a late score coming on an 11-yard run late in the half but failed on the conversion attempt that would have tied the score.

Former St. Helena Hawk RB Jeremy Griffin added to the Bayou Lacombe lead with a 1-yard touchdown run to open the second half. From there, both teams traded blows in the 3rd with the Panthers answering with a 31-yard TD reception to pull within a point, 15-14.

The final stanza started with a bang when Epherson connected with WR Jessiah Contee (Picayune Memorial High School) from 23 yards out with 14:53 remaining in the contest to increase the lead once again 22-14. Pensacola would not quit, however, answering with a 6-yard scoring pass to bring the Cardinal advantage back to 22-20 at the 10:50 mark.

With the Bayou Lacombe offense on full display, Epherson put the game out of reach by hitting WR Daylan Converse (Scotlandville Magnet High School) in a 20-yard scoring strike with 8:16 left in the game. After holding off another Pensacola score, the Cardinals went back to work.

RB Josiah Rankins capped off the drive with a 5-yard TD run. Epherson connected with Chatman for the 2-pt conversion to end the scoring in the night.

Epherson ended his night completing 20 of 29 passes for 302 yards. Chatman had a game-high 116 yards on three catches. Converse ended with 100 yards on seven grabs. Griffin led all rushers with 87 yards on 11 attempts.

Defensively, Rankins paced the Red Birds with six stops, followed by Charles Ross, who had four. Seth Marrero, Zach Varela and Aaron Stevens each added a sack. Jaylan Wilson and Rankins each added an interception.

Pensacola will travel to Mississippi to face the Pike County Titans, while Bayou Lacombe returns home to Lakeshore High next Saturday night to face the Tri City Savages in another Southern Division Contest. Kickoff is set for 7.

Tickets are available online at bayoulacombecardinals.com and at the gate for $10, with kids under 12 getting in free. This week's halftime entertainment will be provided by the Natalbany Middle School Band.

Gail's
Driving Academy, LLC
Locations in
Amite &
Ponchatoula
www.gailsdrivingacademy.com
985-247-2828

Protect What Matters
Home • Auto • Life • Commercial
Local, Independent Insurance Experts
Call 985-214-4086
for a FREE Quote!
Get started at piazzasinservices.com
PIAZZA'S INSURANCE SERVICES, LLC
Scan for a Quick Quote
122 W Pine Street, Ponchatoula, LA 70454

Safety Tip of the Day

Travel Pre-Trip & Planning

- Share Your Itinerary: Let family or friends know your accommodation, flight details, and daily plans.
- Research Areas: Identify safe neighborhoods and areas to avoid, and learn local emergency numbers.
- Check-in Protocol: Set up a plan to check in with a contact person regularly.
- Copy Documents: Keep digital and physical copies of your passport, insurance, and emergency contacts.

If you see something, say something.

800-554-5245 • P3 APP • tangicrimestoppers.com

This public service message is brought to you by

The Tangi Times
Everyone's Favorite Newspaper!

800.554.5245 Cash Rewards
CRIME STOPPERS OF TANGIPAHOA & ST. HELENA
100% Anonymous. Always. www.tangicrimestoppers.com

Congrats, Class of 2025!

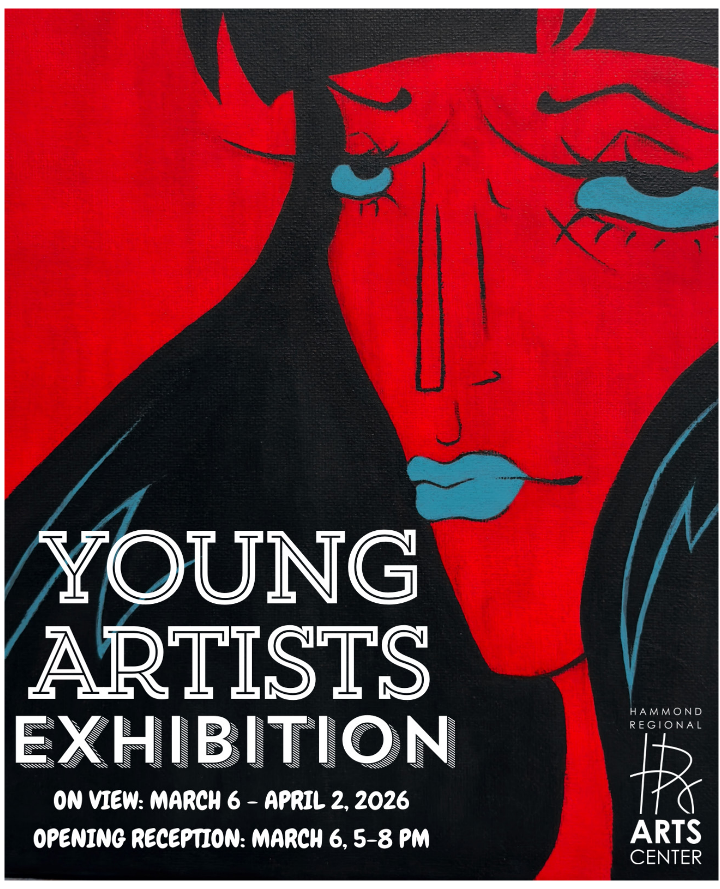
Ponchatoula
Grove

Now booking Autumn portrait sessions! Mention this Tangi Times ad and receive free 8x10 with your session! Thru 10-31-25.
Phillip Colwart PHOTOGRAPHY
phillipcolwart.com
Hammond, LA
985.542.8216

ABSOLUTE
Roofing & Exteriors
Our Mission Is Service
ROOFING | GUTTERS | PATIOS | SIDING
Free Quotes
985.341.ROOF
VETERAN OWNED
LOCALLY TRUSTED

FUN FACT

Montana has approximately 1.1 million people and approximately 2.2 million head of cattle – a 2:1 ratio.


YOUNG ARTISTS EXHIBITION
ON VIEW: MARCH 6 – APRIL 2, 2026
OPENING RECEPTION: MARCH 6, 5-8 PM
HAMMOND REGIONAL ARTS CENTER

LN Hughes
FUNERAL SERVICES
Dedicated to making a difficult time easier
LNHUGHES.COM · 985-277-1003

SOUTHERN FRAMERS of LA LLC
CONCRETE, FRAMING & SIDING
WILL KING
Owner
o: 985-386-4354 Ponchatoula, LA
c: 704-200-1449 will@southernframersofla.com
southernframersofla.com

Powell Title & Notary
NOTARY
VEHICLE REGISTRATION
TITLE TRANSFERS
LICENSE PLATES
555 S MORRISON BLVD
HAMMOND, LA 70403
985-345-8787

CRIME STOPPERS OF TANGIPAHOA PRESENTS
ROCKIN' OUT CRIME
BATTLE OF THE BANDS
FEATURING:
FOOD
VENDORS
JAIL & BAIL
SILENT AUCTION
CASH BAR
2 MAY, 2026
DOORS OPEN AT 2 PM
BANDS START AT 3 PM
CHAPPAPEELA GYM
TICKETS STARTING AT $25
800.554.5245 Cash Rewards CRIME STOPPERS OF TANGIPAHOA & ST. HELENA 100% Anonymous. Always. www.tangicrimestoppers.com
MORE INFO AT WWW.TANGICRIMESTOPPERS.COM

Horoscopes

♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

4th week of March

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
A project you have been working on some time finally reaches a successful conclusion, Aries. Enjoy the benefits that comes from it and take a well-earned bow.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, sensory delights might fill your week. Good food, music and company are your rewards. Enjoy everything and savor each moment.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
A long-awaited response brings a smile to your face, Gemini. It is just the news you were hoping for, and maybe even better than you expected. Now you can move forward with confidence.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, when you meet a new group of people in the days to come, you might feel a profound sense of belonging. Your heart will be full, and you'll be encouraged to socialize more.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, the spotlight may find you this week. Enjoy the praise that is bestowed on you. You have earned it through your consistent effort. Someone with influence may come into your circle.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Clarity about your life's direction brings a sense of calm, Virgo. While you once were floundering, now you know exactly where you are going and the steps necessary to get there.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, your social life may be buzzing right now. It will prove to be a week of laughter, reunions and shared memories if this social energy manifests fully.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
A personal mystery that has been bugging you may be solved this week, Scorpio. The truth might bring you freedom and a sense of empowerment. It also will free up your mind.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
You don't have to travel too far from home to satisfy your wanderlust, Sagittarius. A weekend getaway or midweek escape might be all that's needed to bring refreshment.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
This week you likely will meet a professional or personal milestone that you've been working toward for some time, Capricorn. Celebrate the steady climb you have made.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Authenticity is the key to driving more people into your social circle, Aquarius. It also will attract new opportunities. Don't be afraid to be "you."

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, this week you will settle a debt of some kind, freeing you up for new opportunities. It will leave you feeling lighter and ready for any new chapters ahead.

April 18 2026
10:30 AM - 6:00 PM

SCCA LA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP
Stalekracker's
CAJUN TWO STEP
FEST

Sponsored By
MKS PLASTICS
Morris & Dewett INJURY LAWYERS

JT MCCAFFREY
10:30AM-NOON
MR. SIPP...THE MS BLUES CHILD
12:30PM-2:30PM

MUSIC FEST
Wayne Toups
3:00pm-5:00pm
DJ Arron

4TH ANNUAL
Cajun Two Step
That's Money Dude!
Stalekracker
SANCTIONED BY:
SCCACOOKOFFS.COM
1211 SERVICE RD.
KENTWOOD, LA 70444
SOUTHERN CAJUN COOKOFF SCCA ASSOCIATION

DETAIL

From Page 1

Those experiences clearly shaped his artistic interests; engines, vessels, and heavy machinery appear again and again in his portfolio.

California marked an especially productive chapter. He lived there for four decades and completed many of the works that now line his nursing home walls.

Even today, despite arthritis and back trouble that make long drawing sessions more difficult, his passion for art remains undimmed.

Notably, Schara has never been motivated by profit. Over the years, many people have encouraged him to sell his work, but he has always resisted. For him, the real reward comes from something far simpler.

"I didn't care about money," he says. "I was happy that they were liking them."

When he talks about drawing, his whole demeanor brightens. He describes slipping into deep focus while working, losing track of time as the world fades away. It is less a hobby than a place he goes.

For visitors, Schara's room feels less like a nursing home space and more like a personal gallery — one built not for fame or fortune, but for the simple satisfaction of making something with care.

And for Gerald Schara, pencil in hand, that quiet creative world is still very much alive.

SUCCESS

FROM PAGE 1

Today, success is often measured by flexibility, self-reliance, and personal fulfillment.

In September of 2023, the Sine Institute of Policy and Politics at American University released the results of a survey of Americans between the ages of 18 and 34, asking them what the American Dream meant for young Americans. The survey revealed that today, marriage, owning a home and having children were no longer high on the priority list as they were for us in the past.

Having the freedom to make their own life decisions and being happy and fulfilled are at the top of the list today. Many people are not waiting for permission and are creating their own opportunities, some in very imaginative ways.

For those of us who grew up chasing or believing the old version of the American Dream, we may find ourselves left feeling unfulfilled, especially if we are older and still don't have the house with the white picket fence. Many of us lived in households that stifled independence and autonomy. Some were expected to work for the family business when they graduated high school rather than pursue a personal interest.

Others were expected to follow in their parents' or grandparents' footsteps and get medical or law degrees due to a long tradition of doctors or lawyers in the family. In some families, you simply didn't question, defy, or disrespect your elders, even if it meant sacrificing your own life goals and dreams.

Over time, resentment towards those who denied us the choice to pursue our own dreams may have compiled. A lot of us have sacrificed everything to make others happy at our own expense, and now that the kids are grown, half the population divorced, and the other half single, we may be asking ourselves: what now?

Success is not a "one size fits all" word. It's simply a matter of perception. To some, success means material wealth and possessions or excelling in the best schools.

Some parents have their unborn babies on waiting lists at the most prestigious preschools and have their entire lives planned out, down to who they'll marry and the career they will "choose." Others may view success as living free of debt, off grid in a tiny house, knowing how to forage for wild edibles, purify water, creating healing tinctures from plants, and having extensive survival knowledge.

To me, at the age of 8 years old, success meant I got to eat a meal and not go hungry to bed at night. In my 20's and 30's, I wanted the traditional American Dream and did my best to chase it. In my 40's, success meant having a pain-free day.

Today, as I reflect on my life, I don't define success by the dollars in my bank account, how many people follow me or like my posts on social media, or how many material things I have. I consider myself very successful because of the internal peace, happiness, and joy I feel each day, despite the many challenges I face. I consider myself very successful because I've overcome a lot in life, learned valuable lessons, and am truly content for the first time in my life.

According to Psychology Today, redefining success requires self-awareness, intentional goal setting, and reflection. When we prioritize external markers of success over internal fulfillment, we risk sacrificing what truly matters.

It's never too late to redefine what success means to us. There's nothing stopping us from re-evaluating the goals we've been chasing and creating new ones if the old ones no longer resonate. The rewards are well worth it, and the sky's the limit.

It's back!

Coffee & Critique

Our popular sipping survey sessions return on Tuesday morning, and
YOU ARE INVITED!

WHEN:
This Tuesday morning at 9:30am

WHERE:
Pull Clip Café
1109 CM Fagan Dr, Suite V
Hammond

WHAT:
We will provide you with a gourmet drip coffee, a freshly baked pastry, and one copy of the Tangi Times Classic Edition a day before publication day.
You will simply read the new Tangi Times edition while you enjoy your coffee and fill out a short feedback form with your honest comments about the issue you read.

If you have any questions, call 985-467-0096

We look forward to meeting you!

The Tangi Times
Everyone's Favorite Newspaper!

Julian Dufreche Day In The Park

Bake-Off Drop Off: 9am-10am
Car Show: 10am-2pm
Kids Activities: 10am-2pm
Corn Hole Registration: 10am
Wing Cook-Off Turn In: 10:30am
Music: 11am-1pm

28TH MARCH, 2026

ALL AGES WELCOME

PROCEEDS FROM WING COOK–OFF ARE DONATED TO CRIME STOPPERS

800.554.5245 Cash Rewards
CRIME STOPPERS OF TANGIPAHOA & ST. HELENA
100% Anonymous. Always.
www.tangicrimestoppers.com

lastrawberryfestival.com
Ponchatoula Memorial Park

Our
Wild, Wild
World
By Kasia Perkowska

Purple Martins Need Our Help

The one species admired by almost every bird enthusiast is the Purple Martin. Their name alone insinuates nobility, since the color purple is associated with royalty. No wonder a flock of these beautiful birds is called a "reign" of Purple Martins.

Unfortunately, these majestic birds are rapidly declining in number. Unlike most other bird species, Purple Martins rely heavily on humans to provide the nests where they can raise their babies, and they return to the same nest site each spring, as long as the habitat is in good condition and meets their needs.

Those who set out Purple Martin houses are lovingly termed "landlords," and each year they wait patiently for the birds' return. Landlords and their families love to watch the progress of the nest and the miracle of life unfolding in their yards. Many set up cameras to share the joy with others online.

Surprisingly, one couple in Harahan is facing legal action for their Purple Martin house.

According to a Purple Martin Conservation Initiative (PMCI) press release dated March 11, 2026, a 38-year Purple Martin Colony is at the center of a legal battle. The couple have maintained a thriving Purple Martin colony at their home for almost four decades, but recent complaints from a small number of neighbors about bird droppings prompted the City of Harahan, which identifies itself as a bird sanctuary, to initiate legal action seeking the removal or relocation of the colony's nesting structures.

Andrew C. Wilson, OAS Conservation Chair (JD, LLM Env. Law, Tulane Law School), wrote in The Jailbirds of Harahan, that the disgruntled neighbors refused reasonable abatement offers from the couple and instead demanded they remove or relocate all or a prohibitive number of nesting structures, which would destroy active nests, violating the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which forbids the disturbance of occupied nests.

This would result in the elimination of nesting sites for future returning Purple Martins and contravene the city's own self-imposed "Bird Sanctuary" moniker. A meeting with the Audubon Society and local Garden Clubs to devise a fair solution which follows the mandatory bird nuisance abatement procedures didn't yield a resolution.

Why is this important?

The PMCI states, "This is not just a Harahan issue — it raises broader concerns for conservation efforts across the country. If families can face repeated prosecution for maintaining habitat for federally protected migratory birds, it could set a troubling precedent for Purple Martin colonies nationwide."

The PMCI is also asking for increased public awareness and media attention as this case, set to go to trial this Wednesday, March 25, moves forward, and before this colony, and others like it across the country, face potentially irreversible harm.

Purple Martins play a vital role in our ecosystem because they eat various flying insects, including mosquitoes. They are long-distance migratory birds that spend winters in South America, then start arriving back on their breeding grounds in the US in mid-January.

They can reach air speeds of up to 40 miles per hour, and their migration route can range from 5,000-7,000 miles. By the time these tiny flyers reach us, after traveling between 180-250 miles per day, they are hungry and exhausted.

Martins migrating across the Gulf of America make the entire 500-600 mile trip without stopping for rest. That's a lot of wing flapping and takes a lot of energy and determination.

Remember that they are returning to last year's nest site. What happens to these weary travelers when they arrive to find their home is missing?

You can help the conservation efforts by setting up a Purple Martin nest site in your own backyard. The houses are very easy to purchase and install, and the grateful migrating birds will reward you with their songs and shows every spring. A good house and 15-foot pole can be found on Amazon for about $240.

Gutters
Roofing
Construction &
Gulf Coast
Restoration
Over 30 Years Experience
Siding
Restoration

Call now for a FREE inspection and $500 off any project of $4,000 or more!

Call 985-415-2347

NEW LOCATION NEW TECHNOLOGY

It's a new year! For **Open MRI of Hammond**, with the beginning of 2026 comes our new location serving Tangipahoa Parish and surrounding communities.

Plus, we now offer the latest in people-friendly MRI technology with the installation of our High Field Open MRI!

"High Field" means physicians get the high-quality pictures they need for their diagnosis. "Open" provides people with more comfort and ease during an MRI. Enhanced comfort and ease leads to a much better overall healthcare imaging experience.

Our technology is designed with your comfort in mind. Scan the QR code to learn more.

At Open MRI of Hammond, from bones to stones we see it all!

Now located at:

1420 SW Railroad Avenue, Suite B • Hammond LA 70403
Appointment: (P) 985.340.1960 • www.capitolimagingservices.com

A member of the Capitol Imaging Services Affiliate Network

OPEN MRI
OF HAMMOND